

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /078 W
-----122377 171249Z /42

R 171335Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
INFO CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
COMSEVENTHFLT
USS OKLAHOMA CITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USDAO CANBERRA
SECSTATE WASHDC 4431
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMCONSUL BRISBANE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MELBOURNE 0757

E O 11652 NA
TAGS: OCLR, AS
SUBJECT: COMSEVENTHFLT AND USS OKLAHOMA CITY VISIT TO MELBOURNE,
MAY 10-12,1978

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE AUTUMN RAINS WHICH HAMPERED SOME ACTIVITIES, THE SHORT VISIT OF COMSEVENTHFLT AND U. S. S. OKLAHOMA CITY (CG-5) TO MELBOURNE MAY 10-12,1978, WAS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL EXERCISE IN BUILDING FURTHER GOODWILL FOR THE U. S. NAVY WITH THE RAN, THE MEDIA, HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE AND THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA. COMSEVENTHFLT BAND WAS SEEN LIVE ON TV BY 1.5-2.2 MILLION AUSTRALIANS, WHILE COMSEVENTHFLT HIMSELF HAD TWO TELEVISED NEWS CONFERENCES, APPEARED ON THE TV EVENING NEWS ON FOUR CHANNELS AND RECEIVED GOOD PRESS COVERAGE. END SUMMARY.

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2. ARRIVING WITH AMBASSADOR ALSTON BY USN HELICOPTER SEVERAL HOURS AHEAD OF THE FLAGSHIP, VADM BALDWIN LANDED AT A ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY RESERVE DEPOT, WAS MET BY THE CONSUL GENERAL, RAA THIRD MILITARY DISTRICT COMMANDER AND MEDIA REPS. HE GAVE SHORT INTERVIEW ON CAMERA BEFORE LEAVING ON OFFICIAL CALLS ON CHIEF JUSTICE AND GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA, WITH THE AMBASSADOR. AFTER CALLS, VADM BALDWIN ATTENDED LUNCHEON HOSTED BY FEDERAL

PRESIDENT OF NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA, CDR F. GEOFFREY EVANS, WHERE ADMIRAL GAVE AFTER-LUNCH BRIEFING WITH SLIDES TO 50 GUESTS, ALL PERSONS WITH EXPERIENCE AND INTEREST IN NAVAL AFFAIRS. MEDIA REPS WERE PRESENT AND REPORTERS' QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR WERE SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN THE USUAL "DO YOU MIND THE ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATORS?" THERE WAS ALSO A SECOND ON-CAMERA INTERVIEW. TOPIC OF PRINCIPAL INTEREST AT BOTH CONFERENCES WAS FORTHCOMING JOINT USN-RAN EXERCISE IN INDIAN OCEAN ANNOUNCED BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE IN CANBERRA A FEW DAYS EARLIER.

3. THAT AFTERNOON VADM AND AMBASSADOR CALLED ON LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE, FOLLOWING WHICH VADM BALDWIN CALLED ON SENIOR OFFICERS OF RAAF, RAA AND RAN AT DEFENCE CENTRE. BOARDING FLAGSHIP ON ITS ARRIVAL AT 1600, HE RECEIVED UNOFFICIAL VISIT FROM GOVERNOR-GENERAL H. E. SIR ZELMAN COWEN, WHO TOURED THE SHIP WITH HIS YOUNG SON FOR NEARLY AN HOUR. NEXT EVENT WAS RECEPTION FOR VADM AND MRS. BALDWIN AND STAFF AND SHIP OFFICERS HOSTED BY MELBOURNE TOURISM AUTHORITY, BRANCH OF STATE PREMIER'S OWN DEPARTMENT. PREMIER HON. RUPERT J. HAMER, MADE SPECIAL EFFORT TO APPEAR DESPITE PRESSURE OF FINAL DAYS OF THIS STATE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION. CONSUL GENERAL HOSTED SMALL PRIVATE DINNER FOR BALDWINS THAT EVENING.

4. ON MAY 11, VADM BALDWIN HOSTED VIP LUNCHEON AND VIP TOUR OF SHIP FOR TOTAL OF ELEVEN AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL, MILITARY AND LABOR LEADERS. ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR AND CONSUL GENERAL HE UNCLASSIFIED

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LATER LAID WREATH AT VICTORIA'S SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE. SAME DAY CAPTAIN COLLIGAN, ACCOMPANIED BY CONSUL GENERAL, CALLED ON MAYOR OF PORT MELBOURNE, HARBORMASTER AND CHAIRMAN OF MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST, AND CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF VICTORIA POLICE. PUBLIC VISITING TO THE SHIP WAS HELD THAT AFTERNOON BUT RAIN DISCOURAGED VISITORS. IN EVENING, VADM AND MRS. BALDWIN RECEIVED ABOARD FLAGSHIP ABOUT 170 PEOPLE INCLUDING CITY COUNCILLORS, RAN, RAAF AND RAA OFFICERS AND SPOUSES. LATER, CONTROL OFFICER HOSTED DINNER FOR COMSEVENTHFLT'S COS; GUESTS INCLUDED NOIC VICTORIA, CHAIRMAN OF MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST, CDR. EVANS AND REGIONAL SECRETARY OF DEFENCE (SEE BELOW).

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-----122521 171248Z /42

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FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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USS OKLAHOMA CITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USDAO CANBERRA

SECSTATE WASHDC 4432

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

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5. BALDWINS DEPARTED FOR BRISBANE BY NAVY A/C EARLY MAY 12, FEW HOURS BEFORE FLAGSHIP SAILED FOR FREMANTLE. JOURNALIST BRUCE WILSON OF MELBOURNE SUN-NEWS PICTORIAL, CDR EVANS OF NAVY LEAGUE (SEE PARA 2 ABOVE), AND MR. JAMES DINGWALL, REGIONAL SECRETARY-VICTORIA OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE EMBARKED ON FLAGSHIP FOR MELBOURNE-FREMANTLE TRANSIT AS OFFICAL GUESTS OF COMSEVENTHFLT.

6. THANKS TO RAAF, COMSEVENTHFLT BAND AND FOUR U. S. MARINE FROM FLAGSHIP ARRIVED IN MELBOURNE ON MAY 9 AND PERFORMED AT HALF-TIME ON FIELD AT VICTORIA FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S 80,000 SEAT WAVERLEY PARK STADIUM. BAND AND MARINES CARRYING U. S. AND AUSTRALIAN COLORS PERFORMED ADMIRABLY DESPITE HEAVY DRIZZLE AND WERE WARMLY RECEIVED. TELECAST OF TUESDAY NIGHT AUSSIE-RULES FOOTBALL IS CURRENTLY NATION'S TOP-RATED TV SHOW: BAND AND COLOR GUARD WERE SEEN BY ESTIMATED TWO MILLION VIEWERS
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(15 PERCENT OF POPULATION). PUBLIC CONCERT SCHEDULED FOR LUNCH -HOUR IN HEART OF MELBOURNE WAS RAINED OUT MAY 10, BUT PUBLIC CONCERT-BLOCK PARTY FOR CITIZENS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN SPONSORED BY A SUBURBAN CITY COUNCIL WAS GREAT SUCCESS MAY 11; CITY COUNCIL GAVE BAND OFFICIAL LUNCHEON AFTERWARDS.

7. DESPITE SHORTNESS OF VISIT, DIAL-A-SAILOR WAS USUAL SURE-FIRE SUCCESS: SOME 800 CALLS WERE RECEIVED THE ONE DAY OF VISIT. WARDROOM OF HMAS LONSDALE (SHORE STATION) AND AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION BOTH GAVE BUFFET DINNERS FOR

OFFICERS; CARLTON SOCIAL CLUB AGAIN GAVE FREEMEMBERSHIP TO ALL HANDS FOR NIGHT OF DINING AND DANCING (SHIP'S COMBO PLAYED). WHILE A HANDFUL OF DEMONSTRATORS DID MEET SHIP ON ARRIVAL, THEY WERE QUIET AND ORDERLY AND SOON WENT AWAY, AFTER ASSURING TV INTERVIEWER THAT PROTEST MOVEMENT WAS GROWING RAPIDLY. ALL IN ALL, CITY WELCOMED NAVY WITH CUSTOMARY WARMTH AND OPEN-HANDED HOSPITALITY. BEHAVIOR OF ALL U. S. NAVY PERSONNEL WAS EXEMPLARY. MANY MELBOURNIANS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT STAY WAS SO SHORT.
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